NPS Management Objectives

Projects proposed for Section 319 funding must address one of the twelve (12) objectives outlined below, as determined by the NPS Task Force. Projects must also assist the program in meeting one or more administrative or water quality goals expressed in the NPS Management Plan. The project objectives are described according to the type of human activity or nonpoint source pollution addressed.

1. Agricultural production:
The purpose of these projects is to reduce sediment, nutrient, pesticide and pathogen loading from crop and livestock production. These projects should utilize practices, measures and management methods that will:

- reduce sediment delivery to surface waters
- reduce loadings of nutrients, pesticides and pathogens into surface and ground water; and
- provide research and educational opportunities to develop and promote new sediment reduction technology and new pollution control technology.

Farms that participate in a watershed project must have a nutrient and pesticide management plan developed with the assistance of Conservation Partnership personnel or a Certified Crop Advisor. The landowner or operator must sign this plan. The Nutrient and Pest Management Checklist provided by NRCS may be used to document this planning activity. Farm fields where Best Management Practices are installed with cost-share from a Section 319 grant must utilize appropriate conservation tillage practices. *Note: Farms that require NPDES permits under the Confined Feeding Rule or subsequent rules are not eligible for cost share from a Section 319 grant, for any practices required by the permit.*

2. Streambank/shoreline erosion and aquatic habitat degradation:
The purpose of these projects is to reduce or remediate the erosion of streambanks and lake shorelines, and the associated loss or degradation of aquatic habitat. These projects should utilize practices, measures, and management methods that will:

- reduce streambank and shoreline erosion from agricultural practices, land development, transportation or other causes;
- establish riparian vegetation;
- improve aquatic habitat; and
- provide research and educational opportunities to develop or promote new habitat protection or enhancement technology.

Streambank and shoreline erosion control project plans must take into account: the hydrologic system of the watershed above the project area; any planned or existing hydrologic modifications; land use and land use trends; and applicable laws and restrictions. Aquatic habitat enhancement projects are encouraged to work with the Lake and River Enhancement Program of IDNR as well as other programs and resources that can assist in project design. NOTE: Small dredging projects intended to remove contaminated sediments which are hindering the development of a healthy aquatic ecosystem may be funded; however, dredging in order to improve drainage, for flood control, to increase reservoir capacity or to improve navigation is not an accepted project activity.

3. Land application of non-agricultural wastes:
The purpose of these projects is to reduce polluted runoff from land application of non-agricultural wastes. Projects should incorporate practices, measures and management methods that will reduce pollutant loading from land application of non-agricultural wastes. Project plans must take into account soil characteristics, soil conditions and hydrogeologic vulnerability.

4. Timber harvesting and loss of forest lands:
The goal of these projects is to reduce polluted runoff from timber harvesting and to minimize the environmental impact of forestland conversion. These projects should utilize practices, measures and management methods which will reduce pollutant loading from timber harvesting activities, including establishing or protecting riparian vegetation and improving aquatic habitat, or reduce loss of forests due to land use changes. They should also provide research and educational opportunities to develop or promote new timber harvesting technology that will have environmental benefits. Project plans should take into account forest management activities associated with timber harvesting, grazing of woodlands with livestock or over-abundant wildlife populations, forestation practices, and conversion of forestland to other uses.

5. Land development:
The purpose of these projects is to reduce polluted runoff and habitat degradation resulting from land development activities. They should incorporate practices, measures and management methods that will reduce erosion and pollutant loading from land development. Projects should also provide research and education opportunities to develop or promote technology which reduces the environmental impact of land development. Project proposals should include:

- discussion of present and planned impervious areas,
- stormwater runoff,
- quality of runoff water,
- effects on stream and lake hydrology, and
- stormwater management.

Project sponsors are encouraged to explore linkages with other grant sources and other agencies that have jurisdiction or provide assistance in this area. Section 319 funds may not be used for designing or installing any practice that is required by an NPDES permit. Funds may be used for:

- technical assistance to storm water programs,
- monitoring to assess effectiveness of implementation strategies,
- BMPs not required by a permit,
- information and education programs,
- technology transfer and training, and
- development of regulations and local ordinances to address storm water runoff (provided they apply to non-permitted as well as permitted areas).

6. On-site sewage disposal:
These projects should reduce pollutant loading to streams, lakes, and ground water from inappropriate or failed on-site sewage disposal systems. These projects should utilize practices, measures and management methods that will reduce pollutant loading to surface or ground water from improper disposal of residential wastes. They should also provide research and education opportunities to develop or promote new technology which can reduce pollutants from residential waste. Project plans should consider:

- soil type,
- hydrogeologic vulnerability,
- applicable rules and regulations and
- economic factors.

Project sponsors are encouraged to team up with local health departments in developing proposals.

7. Landfills:
The purpose of these projects is to reduce polluted runoff from solid waste disposal activities. They should utilize practices, measures and management methods that will reduce pollutants in runoff from landfill sites. Grant funds will not be used to fund attainment of NPDES requirements or to treat end-of-pipe discharges. Project sponsors are encouraged to explore linkages with the IDEM Office of Land Quality and local Solid Waste Management Districts.

8. Transportation:
These projects are aimed at reducing polluted runoff from transportation facilities and transportation facility construction. These projects should incorporate practices, measures, and management methods that will reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff originating from transportation-related facilities. The focus of the project may be on either transportation-related construction or existing transportation facilities. Project sponsors are encouraged to explore linkages with the Indiana Department of Transportation for funding and project design. Grant funds will not be used to fund attainment of NPDES requirements or to treat end-of-pipe discharges.

9. Coal mining:
The purpose of these projects is to reduce polluted runoff and acid mine drainage into streams and lakes from present and past coal extraction activities. Projects should utilize practices, measures and management methods that will reduce sediment, acid drainage and other pollutant loading from coal extraction activities. Grant funds will not be used for measures required by any permit. Project sponsors should work with IDNR Division of Reclamation and, where possible, the Office of Surface Mines.

10. Oil and gas production:
The goal of these projects is to reduce polluted runoff to surface and ground water from present and past oil and gas extraction activities. Projects should incorporate practices, measures and management methods which will reduce polluted runoff from oil and gas extraction activities, including oil and gas waste products, sediment and brine. Projects should also provide research and education opportunities leading to remediation of abandoned oil and gas well sites. Project sponsors should work with IDNR Division of Oil and Gas to assist with project development.

11. Non-energy mineral extraction:
These projects should reduce polluted runoff from non-energy mineral extraction activities. Projects should utilize practices, measures, and management methods that will reduce polluted runoff from non-energy mineral extraction activities.

12. Atmospheric deposition:
The goal of these projects is to reduce transfer of pollutants between air and water media and abate deposition of nonpoint source pollutants through atmospheric transport. Projects should incorporate practices, measures and management methods that will reduce the transfer of pollutants between air and water media. Projects should also conduct research to determine the relative contribution of atmospheric pollutants in common nonpoint source pollution situations. Any such research must result in practical and feasible recommendations for pollution abatement.

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